

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 – 9 were pending, and the Office Action dated September 7, 2004 rejected all claims. Specifically, Claims 1 – 9 were objected to for various informalities. In addition, Claims 1 – 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takada (JP 5-16499). Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 10(b) as anticipated by Showalter (U.S. Pat. No. 5,268,581). Claims 5 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takada in view of Sakamoto.

In response, the Applicant has cancelled Claims 1 – 9, and submits new Claims 17 – 19. As now claimed, the present invention is a spool and apparatus, wherein the spool includes an interior notch and the spool length does not extend past the width of the paper wound around the spool.

In contrast, Takada discloses a spool having notches on an exterior end of the spool. This requires that the spool length be longer than the width of the paper, thus increasing the cost of the spool. By comparison, the present invention, as claimed in Claims 17 – 19, utilizes a notch on the interior of the spool, wherein the spool does not extend past the width of the paper. Thus, this decreases the relative cost of the spool.

In addition, Showalter discloses using a bar code on an interior of the spool. However, the present notch is much cheaper to manufacture and to detect,

thereby decreasing the cost of the spool, and detection apparatus, with respect to the system of Showalter.

As such, it is now believed that the present claims are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

REED SMITH LLP  
A Professional Corporation

By:   
Name: Doyle B. Johnson  
Registration No. 39,240  
Attorney for Applicant

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Two Embarcadero Center  
Suite 2000  
PO Box 7936  
San Francisco, CA 94120-7936

**Direct Dial (415) 659-5969**  
(415) 543-8700 Telephone  
(415) 391-8269 Facsimile